

Explain the meaning of the underlined phrases below and answer the question.

1. Are you a health conscious person?
2. Is your home country a class-conscious society?
3. Have you ever bought anything in a duty-free shop?
4. Are or your wife a career minded woman?
5. Do you have a lot of like-minded friends?
6. Do you own many ovenproof dishes?
7. What are some age-related illnesses?
8. Have you ever been guilt-ridden after an unkind remark?
9. Have you ever been bedridden for a short time?
10. Is your home city crime-ridden?
11. Do you insist on biodegradable packaging in things you buy?
12. Have you ever written a post-dated check?
13. Is your son or daughter an accident-prone child? Were you?

Discuss in your group.

1. In your opinion, are most people too health-conscious?
2. If you have a once in a lifetime opportunity, but it stretches your budget to do it, should you pass up the chance?
3. Should government subsidize TV so that we can avoid commercials?
4. Should biodegradable packaging be mandated in the U.S.?
5. Do you think commercials on the danger of drugs or tobacco change people's behavior?
6. If you were in an accident that left you bedridden, would you want to continue living?
7. What is "in the news" in your country right now?

Idioms: Read the sentences aloud and guess the meaning of the underlined idioms. Then answer the questions with your group.

I can't believe Jane gave me grief about the way I am raising my kids. I happen to know her kids get in trouble at school all the time. She needs to get her own house in order before criticizing me.

We checked out that restaurant on Main Street this weekend. We asked for the house specialty and they brought us a seafood dish that was amazing. I had heard the menu was boring there, but they have a new chef and he's made great strides in improving the fare. We complimented the owner and he sent over a bottle of wine on the house. There were lots of empty tables and I was worried they might go out of business, but the owner said things pick up around 8. We're real early birds and like to eat by 6.

1. Does the early bird always get the worm?
2. Have you made great strides in learning English?
3. Do you like to check out new restaurants?

My dad is in big trouble. He criticized the president and now they have him under house arrest. He can't even leave to get a cup of coffee at the coffee shop. I told him he would be a target of the new administration and that he should get out of Dodge. I wanted him to immigrate and get out of reach of the current despots before he spoke out. He told me leaving his homeland was out of the question. My mother has been a real pillar of support for him during this time. I asked if I should come down to help.

Mom says it's not time to push the panic button yet. She feels like the administration will eventually forget about him. Out of sight, out of mind.

1. Who is your pillar of support?
2. Is living permanently in another country out of the question for you?
3. Have you ever pushed the panic button?

The students don't like the new teacher. I think some of the concepts she introduces are over their heads. But I do like that she encourages them to think outside the box. She gives a lot of homework too. She thinks nothing about assigning two or three chapters to read. My daughter is prone to procrastinate when it comes to homework. She discovered early on that she could complete most homework assignments in the morning before school. Now that the amount of homework has increased, she'll have to get on it when she comes home from school.

1. Are you a procrastinator?
2. Are you known for thinking outside the box?
3. What subject in school was over your head?

Grammar Tip: Word Order

The preposition FOR is used both before and after REASON. EX: What's the real reason for your depression? I need to talk to you for two reasons.

REASON can be followed by a clause beginning why or that. EX: The reason why I came here is to be with my family. Do you know the reason why we are being excluded? In informal speech, the WHY can be left out. EX: Do you know the reason we are being excluded?

It is incorrect to use a BECAUSE clause after reason. EX: The reason is because I overslept. We simply say, The reason is, I overslept.